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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T: H. BINGHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
G. JAMES, M.R.SAN.I.,
M.S.I.A.

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health
(also Divisional County Medical Officer):
THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Analyst (part-time):
D. D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
GILBERT JANES, Cert.R.S.I.,
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Sanitary Inspectors:
CLEMENT S. T. DANCER, Cert.R.S.I.,
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
REGINALD FRANKHAM, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.,
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
MAURICE H. STOCKLEY, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.,

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
HAROLD R. SCOTT (until 19th March, 1949)

Disinfecting Officer:
FREDERICK G. STEWART

Pests Officer:
JOHN KEMPSHALL

Rodent Operator:
EDWARD E. ARNOULD

Clerks:
VERA VERRALL
MARJORIE M. TREADGOLD
(until 31st July, 1949)
ELAINE D. DANDO, B.A.
(from 30th September, 1949)
RONALD MARSDIN
THOMAS P. JARRETT
(from 14th November, 1949)

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1949.

The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and, at the Minister's request, special reference is made to certain subjects of current interest with which the local health services are directly concerned. In other respects, the Report follows the arrangement of earlier issues in the same series and is, in general, confined to a brief record of the work of the public health services of the Borough, and of important alterations, improvements and developments of these services, in the year under review.

There was no cause of sickness or invalidity that was specially noteworthy in the area during the year, with the exception of influenza, which was unusually prevalent in the late spring. The case rate for respiratory forms of tuberculosis also was appreciably above the average, though this is to some extent explained by factors other than actual increase in prevalence. There was no significant rise in the incidence of other specific infective conditions, which, in general, was markedly below that recorded in England and Wales and in towns comparable in size with Reigate. The further decline in the incidence of scabies and other forms of verminous infestation is also noteworthy.

The vital statistics for 1949 are, in some respects, less favourable than those recorded in recent years. The birth rate of 14.80 per 1,000, though above the immediate pre-war level, is the lowest observed since 1941. It is probable that the falling rate is not so much an index of adverse economic circumstances as a reflection of present day housing conditions which, in very many instances, impose necessary limitation on the size of families.

The decline in the birth rate was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the proportion of infants registered as still-born, nor of those who failed to survive the first year. In fact, the infant mortality rate for 1949 was the highest for five years. This may appear to be an extraordinary finding in view of the extended provision made for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children; it should be noted, however, that very few of the infant deaths could strictly be classified as preventable in the accepted sense, the majority being attributable to prematurity and congenital debility, to which an antecedent cause could seldom be assigned.

The crude death rate of 12.28 per 1,000 is not unfavourable for a community with an age group constitution such as that of Reigate. The advance on the rate for the previous year is not of special significance, as it is in the main attributable to an increase in mortality from degenerative conditions occurring in association with senility, though influenza, respiratory tuberculosis and infantile gastro-enteritis made more than their usual contribution to the total. On the other hand, the mortality ascribed to what are usually classified as preventable causes, including the commoner infectious diseases, remained consistently low.

It has been customary in the past to devote a section of the Annual Report to a review of the operation of the personal health and maternity and child welfare services provided by the Borough Council. This section is now omitted, as the services in question have been transferred to the Surrey County Council and are operated under a scheme of divisional administration. The transfer has not resulted in any material alteration in the nature and scope of the services available locally, except for an increase in the health visiting staff, the provision of additional clinic facilities for dental treatment in the South Park area and the holding of extra clinic sessions where these appeared to be necessary.

I have again to record my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious service rendered by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other departments of the Corporation and the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health

REIGATE.

22nd August, 1950.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	10,255 acres
Population, Consus 1931 (enlarged Borough) ..	34,547
Registrar-General's estimate of resident civilian population, mid-year, 1949 ..	42,150
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1949 according to Rate Books	11,598
Rateable Value (1949)	£427,921
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,725

Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants

The most recent official information concerning the numbers of males and females engaged in certain occupations is contained in the Industry Tables compiled from the returns of the 1931 Consus.

Extracts from the Industry Tables have been included in recent reports and are not now reproduced, as the changes since the Consus was taken, and more especially since the outbreak of war, render them of little value as a statement of the occupations followed by the inhabitants of the district. The proposed Census of 1951 will provide up to date information on this point.

Population

The civilian population resident in the Borough at mid-year 1949, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 42,150. This represents an increase of 380 on the corresponding figure for 1948, and approximates to that supplied by the local Registration Officer. The various rates for the year, which are calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate, may therefore be accepted as an accurate representation of the morbidity and mortality actually experienced in the area.

Population increment is attributable partly to natural increase, or excess of live births over deaths, and partly to migration. The natural increase in the year was 106, as compared with 199 in 1948, 261 in 1947, 259 in 1946 and 72 in 1945.

Births

Six hundred and twenty-four live infants were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The birth rate for the year was, therefore, 14.8 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, as compared with 15.6 in 1948, 19.6 in 1947, 18.9 in 1946, 15.5 in 1945, and an average rate of 14.0 for the ten years 1935 to 1944. The decline in the birth rate was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the still-birth and infant mortality rates for the year.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	321	Females	271	Total	592
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	13	Females	19	Total	32

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8
Do. 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.6
Do. for the five years 1944 to 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.5

Still Births:-

Males	..	9.	Females	..	9.	..	Total	18
-------	----	----	---------	----	----	----	-------	----

Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.0
Do. do. 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.8

Deaths (nott):-

Males	..	238.	Females	..	280.	..	Total	518
Do. 1948:-								
Males	..	198	Females	..	255	..	Total	453

Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.2
Do. 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.8
Do. for the five years 1944 to 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.8

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public

<u>Institutions</u>	40.9
---------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	.. 0	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	. 1	1.55
Total	1	1.55

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	36.85
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		37.16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		31.25

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

TABLE II
Birth-Rates, Civilian Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1949

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Acute Poliomylitis	Pneumonia	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year
England and Wales	17.6	0.39	11.7	0.00	0.45	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.01	0.51	3.0	32
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	18.7	0.47	12.5	0.00	0.52	0.02	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.56	3.8	37
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	18.0	0.40	11.6	0.00	0.42	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.02	0.49	2.4	30
London - Administrative County	18.5	0.37	12.2	0.00	0.52	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.59	1.7	29
<u>Reigate</u>	14.8	0.42	12.2	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.01	0.42	4.8	37

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to other districts, and of non-civilians. The total number of deaths so assigned was 518, of which 238 were of males and 280 of females.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0-5 years ..	17	12	29
5-10 years ..	-	-	-
10-15 years ..	-	1	1
15-20 years ..	3	1	4
20-30 years ..	6	2	8
30-40 years ..	5	8	13
40-50 years ..	12	14	26
50-60 years ..	23	20	43
60-70 years ..	55	30	85
70-80 years ..	71	104	175
80-90 years ..	42	73	115
90 and upwards	4	15	19
	<u>238</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>518</u>

The "crude" or unadjusted death rate for the year was 12.2 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population, as compared with 10.8 in 1948, 13.1 in 1947, 12.4 in 1946 and an average rate of 12.8 for the preceding ten years. When adjusted, by the application of a comparability factor, to allow for the adverse influence of unfavourable age and sex distribution on the mortality experienced in the area, the "crude" rate is reduced to 9.9 per 1,000, which compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales (11.7) and with the similarly adjusted rate for towns with a resident population of 25,000 to 50,000 (11.6).

The numbers of deaths assigned to specified causes are set out in Table III, and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause or significant association with any special conditions of environment or occupation. Roughly 47.0 per cent of the total deaths from all causes were attributed to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (including degenerative affections of the blood vessels of the brain) and almost 16.0 per cent to cancer and malignant disease, in most cases occurring in association with senility; the mortality from both groups of diseases approximates to the average for recent years. Influenza, gastro-enteritis in young children and tuberculosis of the respiratory system made rather more than their usual contribution to the death rate, while the mortality ascribed to the commoner infectious diseases, notably diphtheria, was exceptionally low. The numbers of deaths from other defined causes correspond roughly with those previously recorded.

TABLE III

Causes of Death in the Borough of Roigate
during 1949

	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	..	..	..
2. Cerobro-spinal Fover .. ..	..	..	..
3. Scarlot fever .. ..	..	..	..
4. Whooping cough .. ..	..	..	..
5. Diphthoria .. ..	..	..	..
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory systom	10	3	13
7. Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	..	..	..
8. Syphilitic diseases .. ..	..	..	..
9. Influnza	7	9	16
10. Measlos .. ..	..	..	..
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio- encophalitis .. ..	..	2	2
12. Acute infective encophalitis ..	..	1	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oosophagus	4	..	4
13a Cancer of uterus .. ..	..	2	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	.5	4	9
15. Cancer of breast .. ..	..	13	13
16. Cancor of all other sites	29	24	53
17. Diabetos .. ..	..	2	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions ..	20	41	61
19. Hoart disease	75	80	155
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	15	10	25
21. Bronchitis	7	4	11
22. Pneumonia	9	9	18
23. Other respiratory disoasos	4	6	10
24. Ulcor of stomach and duodenum ..	4	3	7
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. ..	..	3	3
26. Appendicitis	1	..	1
27. Othor digestive disoases	3	6	9
28. Nephritis	7	4	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sopsis	..	..	..
30. Other maternal causos .. ..	..	1	1
31. Promature birth	6	3	9
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases	7	..	7
33. Suicide	4	3	7
34. Road traffic accidents	1	2	3
35. Other violent causos	2	5	7
36. All other causes	18	40	58
Totals	238	280	518

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWater

Thero was no important extension of the public water supply during the year.

With the exception of fifteen houses which depend for their water supply on three private wells, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about 30 gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be satisfactory.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted monthly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and bacteriologically about 40 times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times, and the analyst's reports are available for the use of the other districts concerned. The following report is typical of those received during the year:-

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bright
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	Alkaline:		8.4
Free carbonic acid	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Electric conductivity at 20 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	265
Total solids, dried at 180 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Hardness: Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Temporary	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Nitrogen in nitrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4
Nitrogen in nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.01
Free ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.076
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.15
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
"Free chlorine reaction"	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.08

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37 deg.C	2 days at 37 deg.C.	3 days at 20 deg.
Number of "Colonies" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in ..	0	0	0
Presumptive coliform reaction	..	..	Absent 100 c.c.
Bact. coli	..	..	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl.wolchi reaction	..	..	Absent 100 c.c.

Report

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a faintly alkaline reaction, and is free from metals. The water is fairly soft in character and has a very moderate content of mineral and saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of the highest standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

A sample of water from a private well supplying a mineral factory was reported to contain traces of iron and manganese, to be acid in reaction and thereby liable to have corrosive characteristics, and to show slight bacterial impurity due to the presence of organisms of a type associated with faecal pollution. The Analyst was of opinion that the water, though of satisfactory organic quality, did not attain the standard desirable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The plumbo-solvent tendency was confirmed by the presence of lead in a subsequent sample, and the owner was accordingly advised with regard to precautionary measures, including the substitution of iron piping and fittings for lead in the pumping apparatus and the repair of certain defects to which the bacterial contamination was thought to be attributable. The necessary repairs were partially completed by the end of the year and the examination of samples at that time showed a marked improvement in the quality of the water.

Samples of water from an artesian well supplying a similar business concern in the area were reported to be of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Important developments of the drainage and sewerage systems of the area included the following:-

1. Extension of the foul and surface water sewers to provide services for new houses being built between Woodhatch Farm and Meadvale.
2. Construction of Pumping Station to provide drainage outlet to eighteen houses in Willow Road, Redhill.
3. Extension of foul sewer to the eastern boundary of the Borough to provide drainage facilities for all the properties in Masons Bridge Road, Earlswood.

Twelve percolating filters at the Sewage Disposal Works were re-conditioned and fitted with new filter arms and equipment. The arrangements for the disposal of sludge were improved by the conversion of one of the old sedimentation tanks into a sludge digestion compartment. A laboratory was provided and equipped for the Sewage Works Manager, to enable him to undertake analysis of tank and out-fall effluents.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected, and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Closet Accommodation

Three cottages with pail closets were converted to the water carriage system and connected to properly constructed cesspools.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Refuse with no salvage value is disposed of by incineration.

The conditions of storage of house and trade refuse are generally satisfactory, and have been greatly improved by the replacement of receptacles found to be dilapidated or defective.

With a view to preventing serious nuisance from flies, communal street bins for the collection of kitchen waste were emptied thrice weekly during the summer months, and were withdrawn and thoroughly cleansed at intervals of seven to ten days. These measures had the desired result.

Arrangements have been made for the salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, bottles, etc., and for the processing for animal feeding of waste food collected in the Borough and in neighbouring Sanitary Districts. An important improvement during the year was the installation of a fume expansion and condensing chamber and an extraction fan to reduce unpleasant odours arising from the operation of the waste food concentration plant and to improve working conditions generally for the operatives concerned.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1934, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

During 1949, two applications were received for licences authorising the use of land as sites for moveable dwellings. One application in respect of land in Mason's Bridge Road was refused, owing to lack of information as to the proposals; the other was granted, subject to certain conditions. The latter site is in Maple Road, Redhill, and at the time of writing is still in process of adaptation.

Seven licences (4 renewals and 3 new licences) were granted under Sub-section(1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation.

In the last quarter of the year, observations were made on the use of certain land at Gatton Park as a caravan site, contrary to Town Planning legislation, and to the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936; the matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Smoke Abatement

No complaint of smoke nuisance was received during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Three swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Two are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation; the third is a privately owned open-air pool to which the public are admitted on payment. All three baths are equipped with the necessary plant for filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water taken during the year were reported to be of satisfactory quality and bacterial purity.

Eradication of Bod Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Act, 1937

In accordance with Section 128 of the above-named Act, the Table given below indicates the work which has been carried out during 1949.

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	10	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	114	46	2	-
(iii) Others	2	2	-	-
TOTAL ..	162	58	3	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	5	3	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	3	-	1	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	6	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	11	-	3	-

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

No lists of outworkers were received from employers. Two lists were received from other Authorities, affecting three persons, whose premises were visited. No action was necessary.

SECTION III

HOUSING

The statistical particulars relating to housing in the area are set out below.

For the reasons explained in recent reports, it has not been practicable to resume the systematic inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, but a considerable number of dwellings were visited and inspected in connection with infectious disease, applications to the Council for housing accommodation and for building repair licences, and on complaint by tenants. Although it was possible to secure, by informal action, the repair of the majority of the houses found to be defective, the number forming the subject of statutory notices tends to increase.

The number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year was 274. Four houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense: three of those were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936; the other was in the ownership of a Government department and was dealt with informally, an assurance being given that, if the Local Authority re-housed the occupier, the house would not be re-let as a dwelling.

Four dwelling-houses were the subject of formal notices served under the repairs section of the Housing Act, 1936, and thirteen notices were served under the Nuisance Sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring defects to be remedied. The particular attention of the Public Health Committee was drawn to the condition of three dwelling-houses, let at low controlled rents, where the owners stated they could not afford the cost of the extensive repairs necessary to make the houses in all respects fit for habitation; consideration is being given to the purchase of the houses by the Council at the District Valuer's valuation.

Informal notices were served on the owners of 248 houses which were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation; 234 defective dwelling-houses in this category were rendered fit before the end of the year in consequence of informal action.

Eleven new cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered during the year, in addition to the twenty-three cases shown to exist at the end of 1948. Four cases were relieved by re-housing the affected families in requisitioned property, in temporary pre-fabricated bungalows or in permanent Corporation houses.

The numbers of houses completed during the year are as follows:-

(a) Council Houses	.. .. .	145
(b) Private - including War Damaged		
'Cost of Works' re-building	..	83

The Council's Valuation and Housing Officer states that during 1949, 89 families were re-housed in permanent Council houses. In addition, 72 families were transferred to permanent houses from temporary accommodation controlled by the Council. Six families were re-housed in pre-fabricated temporary bungalows and 63 families in requisitioned properties. In view of the large number of families with one child which the Housing Committee agreed to re-house,

and the reluctance of the Committee to accommodate such families in three-bedroom houses, it became necessary to adopt a policy of "transfers" in order to make the best use of available accommodation and to be able to place the one-child families in a suitable dwelling; 134 such transfers were effected during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	274
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .	1,468
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	9
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		68
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. .	248

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	234
---	---------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.. .. . 4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	.. .. . Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	.. .. . Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. .. . 13
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	.. .. . 4
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	.. .. . Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. | Nil |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 30 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 49 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 242 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 11 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 4 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 13 |
| (d) Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, which came into operation on 1st October, 1949, duties in connection with registration of dairy premises and supervision of milk production were transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. In this district the transfer affected the inspection of eighteen dairy farms, occupied by seventeen dairy farmers. Tuberculin-tested milk was produced at six of those farms and accredited milk at seven; of the five farms at which "undesigned" milk was produced, two have since ceased to be used, one being in an area purchased by the London County Council for housing purposes, and the other being replaced by a newly-erected cowshed designed and equipped to modern standards, which was in course of construction at the transfer date.

Although the quantity of milk produced locally is not large and is quite insufficient to meet local demands, the standard of production is, on the whole, satisfactory and has steadily improved over the last twenty-three years since the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 came into force.

The greater part of the milk sold by retail in the Borough is pasteurised, either at a licensed dairy in Croydon or at a local dairy which is equipped with a modern H.T.S.T. (high temperature short-time) pasteurising apparatus, and which has been licensed by the Borough Council.

The routine sampling of milk supplies was continued in accordance with recent practice, with the modification that samples of raw, untreated milk were submitted for biological examination only in those cases where it would have been sold in its untreated state. The results are indicated in Table IV; they show that, in all cases, the samples passed the prescribed tests and that those submitted for biological examination gave negative results for tubercle bacilli.

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue		Coliform		Phos-pha-tase	Turbi-dity
	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Satis-factory
Tuberculin Tested: 19	19	-	15	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised): 21	21	-	-	-	21	-
Pasteurised: 29	29	-	-	-	29	-
Sterilised: 3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Heat Treated: 1	1	-	-	-	1	-

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
27	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1946

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to seven retailers in the area:-

Tuberculin Tested	.. .. .	4
Tuberculin Tested - bottling licence	..	2
" " - (Supplementary)	..	4
Pasteuriser's licence	.. .. .	2
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	.. .. .	3

Meat and Other Foods

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 27 to 29 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, relating to Artificial Cream, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923, 1927 and 1943, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, 1927 and 1943.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringement of the Regulations was reported.

Although many Orders have now been made under the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, relating to Food Standards and Labelling, only one slight infringement was noted in 1949 - a sample of horse-radish sauce, containing two or more ingredients, being incorrectly labelled.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk and ice-cream for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association Limited.

Twenty samples of ice-cream from sixteen retailers were examined for bacterial quality, by submission to the methylene blue reduction test. Three of the samples were of local manufacture and these were placed in Provisional Grades I and II. Of the seventeen samples of ice-cream manufactured elsewhere, twelve were in Grades I and II and five in Grade III. These results are generally satisfactory, and indicate that reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent contamination, more particularly in the case of ice-cream manufactured locally.

The effect of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the adoption by the Council of a standard of hygiene relating to manufacturers' and retailers' premises, has been to limit manufacture in this Borough to two premises only, the majority of retailers purchasing ice-cream from registered wholesalers, mainly in the London area, in Brighton and in Hove.

Shellfish (Molluscan)

There are no shellfish beds or layings in the district. The shellfish on sale locally are obtained from the London Markets, so that no information is available as to the layings from which the shellfish are derived.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, nor under Section 39 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

Under the new system of administration, the isolation in hospital of the infectious sick is a function of the Regional Hospital Board. Most of the cases occurring in the Borough were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals at Whitebushes and Bletchingley, though patients were on occasions sent to isolation hospitals in other parts of the Region. There

were few reports of difficulty and delay in securing the admission of infectious patients to hospital, which have not been infrequently the subject of complaint in the initial stages of the new system.

In September it became known that definite plans were being formulated for the reception and treatment of tropical diseases, including leprosy, at the Reigate Infectious Diseases Hospital, which would thereafter cease to be used for its original purpose.

The Borough Council accordingly considered the possible effect of this proposal on the availability, in future, of hospital accommodation for cases of infectious diseases occurring in their area. They were reminded that the resources available locally were limited to the isolation hospitals at Reigate, Bletchingley and Westcott which, when fully in operation, could accommodate a maximum of ninety-seven patients. These hospitals were intended to serve a group of sanitary districts having, at mid-year 1948, a combined population of 145,000; following the loss of accommodation at Reigate, the scale of provision at local hospitals would be reduced to one bed for every 3,000 of the population. The Council were advised that provision on this scale, unless substantially augmented by resources available elsewhere in the Hospital Region, was totally insufficient for the possible needs of the combined sanitary districts, having particular regard to proposed building development in the districts concerned and to existing housing conditions which, in many instances, render it impracticable to isolate infectious patients satisfactorily in their own homes.

It was, therefore, decided to register formal objection to the proposal and to request that a deputation from the Borough Council be afforded an opportunity to attend upon officers of the Ministry of Health to put forward the reasons in support of their opposition. The deputation expressed the view that the closing of the Reigate Infectious Diseases Hospital, in the absence of alternative provision, would seriously embarrass the Council in the discharge of their statutory duties in connection with the control of infectious disease, and contended that the limited use in recent years of the local isolation hospitals did not, in their opinion, preclude the possibility of their being urgently required in the event of serious and widespread prevalence of infectious disease requiring isolation in hospital.

An assurance was given on behalf of the Ministry that the resources available locally are adequate to meet the normal needs of the area and that exceptional demands could effectively be satisfied by the resources available in neighbouring hospital groups. It is earnestly to be hoped that this assurance will be justified in the light of future experience.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and amended in August, 1942.

Table V shows the number of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease. Comparative statistics are given in Table VI. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No case of small-pox was notified in the Borough during the year. Reports were received of the arrival in the Borough of several persons who had recently been in contact with definite or suspected cases of small-pox, either in this country or abroad, or had visited localities where the disease was known to be prevalent. All were visited and kept under surveillance for the proscribed period.

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 14</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Over 15</u> <u>years</u>
Primary Vaccination	125	214	33	17
Re-vaccination	-	-	2	80

The number of infants vaccinated in their first year is equivalent to approximately 20 per cent of the live births accredited to the area. This proportion is totally insufficient to provide an effective barrier against wide-spread prevalence of small-pox in the event of virulent infection being introduced in the area. It has been amply demonstrated by recent experience that such a possibility is by no means remote, in spite of the vigilance exercised over travellers arriving in this country from areas in which small-pox is prevalent or endemic. The expectation that infant vaccination would be more readily accepted in the absence of compulsion would not appear to have been realised.

Scarlet Fever

The prevalence of scarlet fever was only slightly above the average for the Borough and was appreciably lower than that recorded elsewhere in England and Wales. Children of school age were chiefly affected, with a significant concentration of cases at Frenches School in the later months of the year. An investigation at the school led to the discovery of two potentially infectious carriers, who were excluded until they could safely return. The other cases were widely distributed as regards season and locality and, for the most part, appeared to be unconnected. Multiple cases were, however, reported from eight households, in each of which two or more persons contracted the disease almost simultaneously and obviously from a common source.

The prevailing type of infection continues, on the whole, to be exceptionally mild, thereby adding very greatly to the difficulties of administrative control. In many cases the symptoms are so ill-defined or transient as to pass unnoticed, though such cases may possibly convey infection to susceptible individuals with whom they come in contact. This was presumably so with three convalescent cases discovered in the course of routine school medical inspection.

TABLE V

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949

Disease	Cases notified in Age Periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	6	3	8	28	4	2	2	-	2	-	55	42	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7	5	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	3	1	2	8	20	3	18
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	2
Whooping Cough	3	10	14	8	11	32	1	-	3	-	-	-	82	1	-
Measles	5	16	17	15	18	58	2	1	2	1	-	-	135	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7	16	6	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Totals ..	8	27	37	28	37	120	10	3	19	3	15	15	322	64	20
Totals 1948 ..	49	109	147	131	130	462	22	9	24	10	11	12	1116	61	22

TABLE VI

CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949

	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population									Rates per 1000 Total (i.e. Live and Still Births)
	Typhoid Fever	Para- typhoid Fever	Cerebro- spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Diph- theria	Ery- sipelas	Measles	Pneu- monia	
England and Wales	0.01	0.01	0.02	1.63	2.39	0.04	0.19	8.95	0.80	6.31
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	0.01	0.02	0.03	1.72	2.44	0.05	0.20	8.91	0.91	8.14
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tion 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census) ..	0.01	0.01	0.02	1.83	2.39	0.04	0.19	9.18	0.65	5.30
London Administra- tive County ..	0.01	0.01	0.02	1.46	1.70	0.07	0.17	8.54	0.55	6.82
Reigate	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	1.94	0.00	0.37	3.20	0.47	10.90

Another epidemiological feature of importance is the frequency with which the occurrence of scarlet fever can be traced with reasonable certainty to cases of tonsillitis caused by the organism of scarlet fever, but unaccompanied by other diagnostic symptoms of that disease. Such cases are not compulsorily notifiable and are not, therefore, subject to precautionary restrictions, unless these are dictated in the interests of the public health by reason of the nature of the occupation of the person affected. This gives some support to the view that, while limited as at present in its application, the notification of scarlet fever is of doubtful value as a factor in facilitating control and might well be discontinued.

Diphtheria

For the second year in succession no case of diphtheria was reported in the Borough.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year are as follows:-

Age 0 - 5 years	..	..	642
Age 5 - 15 years	..	..	52
Total			<u>694</u>

Reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 582 persons, mostly school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously. This represents a marked advance on the highest figure recorded in the past.

It is estimated that approximately 64.2 per cent of children under the age of five years, and 82.0 per cent of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. As protection is not usually advised until the end of the first year, the former proportion is equivalent to roughly 80 per cent of those eligible for treatment, and may be regarded as very satisfactory.

Dysentery

Two notifications of bacillary dysentery related to inmates of a residential children's home and a third to a nurse in a general hospital, who had contracted the infection while she was serving with the Forces abroad. All were adequately isolated, and recovered satisfactorily. Routine bacteriological examination of specimens from immediate contacts of these cases gave negative results for organisms of dysentery.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Seven women were reported to have sustained or repeated rise of temperature following confinement. Five had been confined in hospital and two in private dwellings. The latter were attended by district nurses and were the subject of investigation by the Health Visitors. Three of the notifications were in respect of women admitted to hospitals in the Borough from other areas; if these are excluded, the morbidity rate per thousand total births compares very favourably with that recorded in other areas.

Pneumonia

The incidence of pneumonia, as judged by the number of cases notified, was not above the average, and was heaviest in the winter months, when elderly persons were chiefly affected. In at least six instances the lung infection was secondary to influenza.

Eight patients were already in hospitals or public institutions at the time of notification or were subsequently removed to hospital for the purpose of treatment. The cases treated at home were visited by Health Visitors, who reported that adequate facilities for isolation and treatment were available in every instance and that no case was in urgent need of skilled nursing attention.

The deaths ascribed to pneumonia included several due to non-notifiable forms of the disease, such as hypostatic pneumonia occurring as a terminal condition in elderly persons. The mortality rate is not, therefore, truly represented by the ratio of deaths to notified cases; in fact, the death rate for notified cases was remarkably low, no doubt reflecting the efficacy of modern methods of treatment.

Polio-myelitis

Two confirmed cases of polio-myelitis (infantile paralysis) were notified. Both patients were young married women and died a few days after admission to hospital. There was reason to believe that one of these patients was infected during a visit to a seaside resort where the disease was known to be prevalent, but the source of infection of the other case could not be traced.

Four suspected cases were admitted to hospital for observation, but were subsequently reported to be suffering from non-infectious conditions.

Whooping Cough

The number of notified cases of whooping cough was not above the average, though it is probable that the disease was much more prevalent than the number of notifications would suggest. Maximum incidence was recorded in the Autumn months when children attending the infants' department of St. Matthews School were chiefly affected. It was not necessary, however, to advise school closure or to issue certificates for fall in average attendance because of the prevalence of whooping cough.

Only one case was admitted to hospital, as it could not be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home. Most of the remainder were followed up by the health visitors to ensure that a reasonable standard of isolation was being observed and to arrange for the supply of trained nursing assistance, where it appeared to be necessary.

Inoculation against whooping cough is not at present undertaken at the Clinics in the Borough, but is being increasingly practised, usually in combination with diphtheria prophylaxis, by private medical practitioners. It is considered to be advisable to postpone the introduction of whooping cough immunisation as a public service until the efficacy of the available immunising agents has been more definitely established.

Measles

There were comparatively few cases of measles, probably in consequence of the immunity conferred during the extensive outbreak of the disease in 1948. Prevalence was sharply confined to the first half of the year, with a peak of maximum incidence in April and was, as usual, heaviest amongst the children under the age of ten years. No mortality was attributed to measles or its complications.

Measles serum was not extensively used for the prevention or attenuation of measles, and was supplied on one occasion only for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible contacts.

Erysipelas

Notifications of this disease, of which there were sixteen, did not indicate any significant increase in prevalence. Six cases were treated in hospital and the remainder in their own homes. No mortality was ascribed to erysipelas.

Food Poisoning

One outbreak of food poisoning was reported. This involved two members of the same household, who suffered from severe gastro-intestinal symptoms and collapse about three hours after the ingestion of a meal of tinned biskuits. The affected persons were admitted to hospital and recovered satisfactorily.

Unconsumed remnants of the biskuits were submitted to bacteriological examination and were reported to be heavily infected with pathogenic organisms, to which the illness was undoubtedly attributable. The available information with regard to the source of origin of the suspected article was insufficient to identify the particular consignment from which it had been obtained or to justify seizure of stocks on sale locally. The facts were accordingly reported to the Ministry of Health in order that appropriate action might be taken centrally.

Tuberculosis

Forty-eight new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and nine of tuberculosis of other organs were reported during the year. Forty-three were cases notified for the first time, thirteen were reported by the County Medical Officer on transfer from other areas in which they had already been notified, and one became known from the Registrar's Return of Deaths.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VII, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, including those coming into the area after notification elsewhere, is equivalent to a case rate of 1.13 per 1,000 of the population. The rate so computed is roughly double that recorded in 1948, in which, however, the prevalence of respiratory tuberculosis was exceptionally low, and is somewhat in excess of the average rate for the preceding ten years, in which the war-time increase in incidence is reflected.

Except for slightly greater prevalence amongst males of middle age, the sex and age distribution of new cases do not differ significantly from those observed in the past. A substantial proportion of the increase is attributable to the unusually large number of convalescent cases coming into the area, to which many are attracted by the generally favourable climatic conditions. Part of the increase may also be explained by more complete ascertainment and earlier diagnosis through mass radiography and diagnostic skin tests. While making due allowance for these factors, there remains a small but definite rise in prevalence of tuberculous affection of the lungs amongst Borough residents. This may be a natural fluctuation to which case rates calculated on a relatively small series are subject, rather than an indication of a general trend. Among the many circumstances that may favour increase in prevalence, there is one that is especially noteworthy and important, namely, the unavoidable necessity of retaining infectious patients in unsatisfactory and, occasionally, overcrowded home surroundings, with correspondingly greater opportunities for the dissemination of infection. In this connection, the County Council's scheme for the boarding-out of child contacts of tuberculosis, which is being extended in scope, provides an invaluable means of protecting a specially susceptible element of the population.

With regard to non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis, the findings for the year are much more favourable, in that the case rate of 0.21 per 1,000 is the second lowest observed in the past decade. Although of limited statistical significance, this is a very welcome improvement, as non-respiratory tuberculosis has not exhibited any sustained tendency to decline since the disease became compulsorily notifiable about forty years ago. It is, moreover, in this form of the disease that rapid and substantial reduction in prevalence should be possible, by the complete elimination of one known source of infection, namely, infected milk. Increase in the number of attested herds and extension of the practice of heat-treatment of milk from other sources should in time bring about a fall in the incidence of non-respiratory tuberculosis of bovine origin.

The mortality rates for tuberculosis followed the same general trend as incidence rates, being somewhat above the average for infection of the lungs and unusually low for tuberculosis of other organs; in fact, for the third time in the present century, no mortality was ascribed to non-respiratory forms of the disease.

A register is kept of the names, addresses and other particulars relating to known cases of tuberculosis. At the end of the year there remained on the Register the names of 244 persons, of whom 180 (101 males, 79 females), were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 64 (33 males, 31 females), from tuberculosis of other organs.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

TABLE VII

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1949, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease.

Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths			
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M		F	M		F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	2	9	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	6	6	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
25-35 years	6	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
35-45 years	3	3	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
45-55 years	3	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
55-65 years	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & upwards										
TOTALS ..	30		18	6		3	10	3	-	-
TOTALS (1948)	13		12	12		7	7	3	2	2

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Influenza

Information relating to the prevalence of influenza is obtained mainly from school records and from the local Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. From the former it would appear that comparatively little absence from school was attributable to influenza; the latter, however, indicated that the mortality from the disease was unusually high, particularly amongst elderly persons and in the month of March. Seven of the deaths occurred in hospitals and institutions for the aged and infirm.

Emergency arrangements were made through local voluntary agencies for assisting stricken households in the event of epidemic prevalence.

Other Infectious Diseases

Very few cases of other infectious and contagious diseases were reported during the year. Isolation in hospital was provided for seven cases of Vincent's angina, five of influenza, and one each of meningitis, gastro-enteritis, mumps, scabies and impetigo. Most of these cases were removed from general hospitals and residential institutions where the facilities for isolation were inadequate.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection, and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The measures adopted locally to combat infestation by lice have been fully described in previous reports and were consistently maintained throughout the year. The information from several sources indicates that the general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. Not a single instance of verminous infestation was recorded in an infant under school age, while rather less than 2.0 per cent of school children were found to be suffering from pediculosis. The infestation of the latter was confined to the scalp and, in most instances, was of mild degree, only nineteen cases being so pronounced as to require exclusion from school. Seven infested school children were cleansed under the arrangements made by the Education Authority. No case of verminous infestation of an adult was reported to the Public Health Department.

Scabies

There was a further decline in the number of cases of scabies coming to the notice of the Public Health Department. The total number of cases reported was 15, as compared with 28 in 1948, 141 in 1947 and 295 in 1946. Five cases were referred to the Redhill County Hospital and the remaining ten were successfully treated under the arrangements made by the Borough Council.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1949

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
Hatchlands Road,
Redhill.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my sixteenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors which, during 1949, continued to be concentrated chiefly on the supervision of building repair work under licence and otherwise, the inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants for Corporation houses, meat and food inspection and the improvement of hygienic conditions in food premises.

The difficulties associated with the repair and maintenance of houses let at low and controlled rents continue to increase.

The work of dealing with applications for housing accommodation referred to me by the Council's Housing Officer for an assessment of the housing need of the applicant continued on the lines indicated in my Report of last year; enquiries were made in 272 cases. In addition, 26 investigations were instituted into applications made to other Local Authorities by families resident in this Borough; the subsequent reports were made to, and at the request of, the Local Authorities concerned.

Progress continues to be made in the standard of hygiene of food premises; particular attention has been given during 1949 to the improvement of bakehouses, and to premises used in connection with the manufacture of preserved food, etc. At the end of the year the Council decided to adopt the new Model Bye-laws drawn up by the Ministry of Food for the guidance of those Local Authorities who wish to make use of the power given to them in Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The work of the staff engaged on pest control, disinfection, etc., referred to in my last Annual Report has continued to show satisfactory and economical results. The usefulness of having staff interchangeable in the various aspects of this work is particularly illustrated if one examines the Table showing the amount of work carried out at the Steam Disinfecting Station - a considerable decrease on previous years' figures - and the increased amount of work which had to be done in connection with the destruction of rats and mice, wasps' nests, and other pests.

It is a pleasure again to record the creditable work carried out by my colleagues both in and outside the office; I would mention particularly (a) the conscientious and efficient way in which pest control work has been done - many occupiers of premises have expressed their appreciation of this service; and (b) the inspectors responsible for the inspection of carcasses at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse continue to show the keenest interest in this work, which, owing to the increase in the number of animals slaughtered, has more than ever to be performed outside the normal office hours. I wish, also, to express again my gratitude to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his advice and kindly consideration.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 106 visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious disease. Seventy-six library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.

The Table on page 33 shows in detail the work carried out by the Disinfecting Officer in connection with disinfection and disinfestation.

During the year 5 houses, one of which was owned by the Corporation, were disinfested owing to the presence of bed-bugs; four houses were disinfested on account of fleas, and four on account of cockroaches.

During the summer months routine work of pest control was interrupted and, to a small extent, disorganised by requests from occupiers of properties for assistance in destroying wasps' nests which, in many cases, are found in most inaccessible places, such as in roofs, under floors, in cavity walls, etc.. One hundred and eleven nests were destroyed in 1949, as compared with 58 in 1948.

Regular routine inspections were made, under contract terms with the Surrey County Council and the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, of the Public Assistance Institution and the Redhill County Hospital for the purpose of controlling the number of cockroaches which infest these and similar institutions from time to time. The latter institution was seriously and heavily infested in the previous year, but the control measures which were taken then and since have been most successful. School-canteen kitchens were sprayed twice during the fly-breeding season with a liquid D.D.T. insecticide, at the request of the Education Authority, to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

(a) Meat

The slaughterhouse in West Road, Reigate, controlled by the Ministry of Food, continued to be used for the routine weekly slaughter of calves, sheep and pigs and the emergency slaughter of other food animals. Inspection of the dressed carcasses and organs is made as a matter of routine on several evenings during the week and often during the week-end. The premises were licensed as a slaughterhouse in 1930, and were intended to deal with an average of about 9 animals a week; the average is now about 170, so that it can readily be realised that there must be many occasions during the year when the capacity of the slaughterhouse is quite inadequate for the numbers to be dealt with, and that conditions must of necessity be very unsatisfactory and a source of nuisance to the many residents in the vicinity. Under such conditions an efficient system of meat inspection is rendered extremely difficult; that the efficiency is not less, is due entirely to the enthusiasm of the inspectors, to which I have already referred.

The results of inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 34 & 35. It should be borne in mind, when reading them, that all the cattle and a small proportion of the other animals are sent in for slaughter on account of illness or injury. It is this factor which accounts for the high percentage of animals found to be affected with some diseased or non-pathogenic condition.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT CORPORATION STEAM
DISINFECTING STATION, 1949

	BEDDING						CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS, ETC.						Vermi- nous - 1949		Infected Rooms	Hospital Wards
	Beds	Matt- resses etc.	Bolsters and Pillows	Sheets Blankets etc.	Carpets etc.	Curtains Fowls etc.	Cloth- ing	Other Arti- cles	TOTAL 1949	TOTAL 1948	Persons Clean- sed 1949 1948					
											1949	1948				
REIGATE BOROUGH	3	21	48	85	-	22	12	24	215	95	-	-	15	1		
	-	2	2	12	-	-	7	2	25	20	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	-	2	1	7	1	-	-	1	12	30	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	6	54	136	118	2	2	51	33	402	1242	-	-	1	1		
TOTAL	9	80	193	222	3	24	70	60	661	1642	-	-	18	2		
DORKING AND HORLEY R.D.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
	-	23	63	40	-	-	-	8	134	240	-	-	-	-		
	TOTAL	-	23	63	40	-	-	-	8	134	278	-	1	-		
GOD- STONE R.D.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	-	5	5	6	1	-	-	1	18	25	-	-	-	-		
	TOTAL	-	5	5	6	1	-	-	1	18	25	-	-	-		
S.C.A. E.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	-	350	466	725	-	-	-	-	1541	-	-	-	-	-		
	TOTAL	-	350	466	725	-	-	-	1541	-	-	-	-	-		

MEAT INSPECTION
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Bulls (included in cattle column)
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	35	97	3205	5329	283	6
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	35	97	3205	5329	283	6
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	25	12	24	19	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	43	6	352	141	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	48.57	70.1	.561	7.055	56.55	
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	9	7	-	1	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	14	2	-	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.43	23.71	.28	-	4.59	

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was
15 tons 6 cwts. 5 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions												TOTALS		
		Genera- lised	Local- ised	Fevered	Dropsy & Emaciation	Pyæmia	Injury	Septi- cæmia	Nephritis	Distoma- tosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy	Pneumonia or Gan- grenous Pneumonia	Actino- mycosis		Cavernous Angioma	Miscella- neous
BOVINES - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcase Heads and Tongues Lungs Livers and part livers Hearts Skirts Spleens Kidneys Mesentery & Intestines CALVES - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcase Lungs Livers SHEEP - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Lungs Livers PIGS - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Heads and Tongues Lungs Livers Mesentery and Intestines TOTAL	132 																	

The number of cows slaughtered included three which were dealt with by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Tuberculosis Order, and which were sent to the slaughterhouse with a view to salvaging such parts of the carcasses, etc., as were found on post-mortem inspection to be fit for human consumption.

(b) Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and disposed of accordingly.

Dried Fruit	2 cwts. 10 lbs.
Sweets and Chocolate	82 lbs.
Bacon	8 cwts. 1 qtr. 3 lbs.
Meat and Offal	1 cwt. 2 qtrs. 20 lbs.
Barley flakos	23 cases
Fresh fish	1 ton 8 cwts.
Sago	141 lbs.
Flour	1 cwt. 26 lbs.
Butter, Margarine, etc.	56 lbs.
Dried Milk	564 tins
Sponge Puddings	432 pkts.
Eggs	43 dozen
Sugar and Preserves	3 cwts. 1 qtr. 25 lbs.
Salad cream	44 cases
Mixed Pickles	267 jars
Crumpets	145
Cheese	128 boxes
Sausage Rusks	1 cwt.
Orange Juice	14 casks
Dried Peas, Beans, Lentils	30 lbs.
Potatoes	1 ton
Tinned Meat	5 cwts. 22 lbs.
Tinned Milk	204 tins
Tinned Beans	45 tins
Tinned Peas	83 tins
Tinned Fruit	253 tins
Tinned Fish	116 tins
Tinned Carrots	21 tins
Soup	59 tins
Tomato juice	38 tins
Cod liver paste	522 tins
Miscellaneous:-	
Tinned food, etc.	82 tins
Packet food, etc.	96 pkts.

This work involved 224 visits.

Most of the condemned food was utilised for the feeding of animals; no edible food was wasted. In this connection there was the closest co-operation with the Food Executive Officer, the Divisional Food Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food, and local members of the food distributive trades.

In accordance with Section 34 (1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, registration was made of two premises used for carrying on the business of a wholesaler in margarine.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sections 13 & 14

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Butchers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Confectioners (including 21 bakehouses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	122

Five hundred and thirty-two visits of inspection were made to food premises; this number does not include the many visits which have to be made at the request of traders to issue condemnation certificates for unsound food.

In April, 1949, I discussed the implications of Section 13 with a representative meeting of local master-bakers and confectioners. I had previously made the following report to the Public Health Committee:-

"It is only recently that it has become possible to recommence the routine inspection of food premises, and reports which have just been made in the case of two particular bakehouses indicate that not only have the premises themselves suffered through lack of essential repairs during the war years, but there has been a corresponding lowering of the standard of cleanliness which should be maintained in food premises by both management and staff. No doubt shortage of labour in the past has contributed to these conditions, but managements are also faced with a lack of interest on the part of operatives which is undoubtedly widespread today.

"In the particular cases referred to, it would be a simple matter to present a detailed report showing conditions which are infringements of the appropriate sections of the Food and Drugs Act, and which could be the subject of immediate legal proceedings, but I do not recommend such a course of action in the first instance. I have written to, and interviewed, the two occupiers concerned, and I have no doubt there will be a rapid improvement in conditions generally, with an undertaking, in one case, to carry out extensive structural alterations as part of a long-term policy.

"It is likely that there has been a similar deterioration in other premises, so that I would prefer to take the opportunity of using these examples as a basis for discussion with the local Association of Master-Bakers, who should be informed of the standard of hygiene to which the Local Authority will expect them to conform. If all traders are given a reasonable opportunity to put their premises in order, there should be no feeling of unfairness when the Committee decide to enforce, by legal proceedings if necessary, the appropriate provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, etc."

The result of this meeting was an immediate improvement in the standard of general cleanliness of bakehouse buildings, 13 premises being cleansed and re-decorated; other improvements which were completed during 1949 included the following:-

(a)	Structural alterations, etc.	2
(b)	Ablution facilities provided or improved.	8
(c)	W.C. accommodation improved.	4
(d)	Food storage facilities improved.	3
(e)	Floors re-laid.	4
(f)	Drainage improvements	2
(g)	Storage of refuse improved	2

At the end of the year, works of improvement were either pending or in progress at 7 other bakehouses. The work entailed 21 inspections and 68 re-visits.

In addition to the above, one bakehouse was extended and completely modernised; another, formerly a basement bakehouse and not used since the commencement of the Factories Act, 1937, was reconstructed, fitted with modern equipment, etc., and brought into use again.

In September, 1949, I invited members of trades interested in the manufacture of meat products and other "preserved food" to a meeting to discuss with me not only the provisions of Sections 13 and 14, but a code of practice or standard with which the Council decided premises must conform in order to qualify for registration under Section 14, and which applicants must afterwards maintain. This meeting followed a report which I made to the Public Health Committee on the 6th July, 1949, from which I append an extract:-

"The above-named Sections became operative just before the war, when certificates of registration were granted to applicants on the condition that such registration should have effect only for the duration of the war. The reason for this was that, at that time, it was impracticable to require alterations, possibly structural in character, which it might be desirable to specify in order to bring premises to a high standard of hygiene. Since the end of the war, in spite of the shortage of labour and material, it has been possible to improve the standard of many food-preparing premises, particularly where applications for building-repair licences have been made; in such cases it has often been possible to persuade traders that regard should be paid to standards of hygiene when considering the "essentiality" of repairs or improvements. Another factor which has assisted very materially in improving standards has been the co-operation between the Food Executive Officer of the local Food Control Committee and myself in dealing with applications for new catering licences for food premises. The need for licensing of both building repairs and food premises is now much reduced, so that other methods must be adopted to continue the improvement in standards which has undoubtedly taken place in this Borough during the last three years.

"The Committee has already considered and adopted a standard for ice-cream premises, which has had satisfactory results; the condition of bakehouses has recently been dealt with; the time would now appear to be opportune to draw the attention of all persons concerned locally in the manufacture and sale of "preserved foods" to the legislation governing this aspect of their business, requesting these manufacturers or retailers who were granted certificates of registration in 1940 to apply again for registration if they desire to continue. At the same time, it

"should be possible to specify for these premises a
"standard of hygiene, or code of practice, which should
"be made a condition of registration. I append a
"standard which I recommend for consideration; it is
"based on draft codes of practice for all food trades
"drawn up by a small sub-committee of the Surrey Branch
"of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, upon which
"I was elected to serve. The codes are proving helpful
"in obtaining uniformity of administration in Surrey
"districts, pending the issue of codes of practice by
"the new Food Hygiene Division of the Ministry of Food."

The following is the standard to which I have referred:-

"The premises must comply with Section 13 of the Food
"and Drugs Act, and, in particular,

"(1) No sanitary convenience, dustbin or ashpit shall be
"within or communicate directly with the room or be so
"placed that offensive odours therefrom can penetrate into
"the room.

"(2) No cistern for the supply of water to the room shall
"be in direct communication with or discharge directly into,
"a sanitary convenience, and there shall not be within the
"room any outlet for the ventilation of a drain or any inlet
"into any soil water drain except where unavoidable and then
"only by sealed and ventilated gully.

"() The walls, ceiling, floor, windows and doors of the
"room shall be kept in a proper state of repair. The floor
"and walls shall be constructed of durable and impervious
"material. The ceiling shall be constructed of suitable
"material to minimise condensation.

"(4) The walls, ceiling and doors of the room shall be
"washed or cleansed as often as may be necessary and at
"least every month so as to maintain the premises in a
"clean condition; the windows of the room shall be kept
"clean.

"(5) The room shall not be used as a sleeping place and
"so far as may be necessary to prevent risk of contamination
"of food in the room, no sleeping place adjoining the room
"shall communicate therewith except through the open air
"or through an intervening ventilated space. No domestic
"room of any kind shall be used for the manufacture,
"storage or sale of preserved food.

"(6) Natural lighting shall be provided by means of
"windows or roof lights at least one-tenth the floor area.
"Suitable and sufficient artificial lighting shall also
"be provided.

"(7) Suitable and sufficient means of ventilation shall
"be provided and efficiently maintained.

"(8) No refuse or filth, whether solid or liquid, shall
"be deposited or allowed to accumulate in the room and
"the floor of the room shall be cleansed as often as may
"be necessary. Metal bins with close-fitting covers
"shall be provided for refuse.

"(9) Cleanliness shall be observed by persons employed
"in the room, both in regard to the room and all articles,
"apparatus and utensils therein and in regard to themselves
"and their clothing. Where necessary suitable clean head
"covering shall be worn.

"(10) A sufficient number of sinks, together with a
"constant supply of hot and cold water shall be provided
"for the cleansing of all utensils and equipment used in
"the manufacture or preparation of food.

"(11) Washing facilities, consisting of approved lavatory
"basins provided with constant supply of hot and cold water
"and a sufficient supply of soap, clean towels and nail
"brushes shall be provided adequate for all persons
"employed in the room.

"(12) Adequate sanitary accommodation, where necessary
"separate for the sexes, shall be provided and maintained
"in a clean condition.

"(13) All foodstuffs shall be protected from contamination by dust, dirt, flies, etc., and for this purpose
"protection to open displays of goods must be provided by
"suitable coverings.

"(14) In so far as present conditions allow, food sold
"from preserved food premises must be wrapped in clean
"hygienic wrappers and wherever possible a clean, new
"inner wrapping should be used in addition to any newspaper which may be used.

"(15) Proper provision should be made for the storage
"of employees' outdoor clothing.

"(16) The premises shall at all times be kept free from
"infestation by vermin and/or insects."

The response to the request for re-registration was satisfactory and by the end of the year 42 inspections and 99 re-visits had been made in connection with applications. Three premises were brought fully up to standard, and on the 31st December, work was pending or in progress at 29 premises. In one case the manufacture of sausages ceased and was transferred to other premises, as the existing manufacturing room could not economically be brought up to the required standard.

The effect of Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, on the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream has continued to be of advantage. Manufacture locally is restricted to two registered premises, and in 1949, certificates of registration were granted to 13 retailers in respect of premises used for retail sale only, and 1 certificate of registration in respect of premises used for sale by wholesale only, making a total of 56 premises used for this purpose. The majority of retailers sell ice-cream packed by the manufacturers either in cartons or grease-proof paper. Particular attention is paid by your Inspectors to those premises where ice-cream is served to customers from bulk supplies either in wafer-biscuits or cornets, to see that the metal servers, etc., are kept in a clean condition. There are 12 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold by retail for consumption off the premises which are exempt from the provisions of Section 14; this, in my view, is a weakness in existing legislation.

The improvement noted in 1948 in the sale of ice-cream in local street-trading vehicles has been maintained. The majority of these vehicles are now equipped with hot and cold water, etc., for use of the vendor and are so designed as to reduce the possibility of contamination of the product by dust.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Renewals of annual licences were granted to 12 slaughtermen.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The above-named Regulations came into operation on 1st October, 1949, and superseded the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, consequent upon the provisions of the Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949, which transferred the responsibility for the administration of the regulations relating to dairy farms from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, leaving the supervision of the distribution of milk with district councils.

The entries in the new Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

(a)	With dairies in the Borough	..	..	4
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	..		7
(c)	With premises in the Borough (bottled milk sold in general shops)	..		5

Dairies: 6

Of the dairies, three are occupied by one firm - one being equipped with H.T.S.T. pasteurising apparatus, automatic filling and capping, and bottle-washing machines; one was equipped with two small batch pasteurisers, etc., for the pasteurisation and bottling of tuberculin-tested milk; and the other is used as a cold store and distributing depot; two dairies are used for the handling and distribution of raw untreated milk on a comparatively small scale; one dairy is used as a cold store and distributing depot by a firm which has its main pasteurising premises at Croydon.

Of the distributors, one has premises at Reading and conveys milk daily to certain large institutions in this and other county districts under contract; two have premises in the London area, and sell a comparatively small amount of bottled sterilised milk by wholesale to a few local shopkeepers; two are dairymen in neighbouring districts and sell a small quantity of milk on the outskirts of this Borough; two are producer-retailers with farms in neighbouring districts; the other four occupy the dairies described in the preceding paragraph.

A detailed report on the samples of milk which were taken in 1949 from the afore-mentioned distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Diseases of Animals Acts - Disinfection

The following is a report which I made to the Public Health Committee on 9th February, 1949, on the question of the disinfection of vehicles at Redhill Cattle Market:-

"It has been the practice for many years for the Disinfecting Officer to attend each week at the Redhill Cattle Market to carry out any work of disinfection required by the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Order, 1931, made under the Diseases of Animals Acts. The responsibility for disinfection is placed upon the owners of the vehicles, etc., but the Local Authority is empowered to provide, and has, in fact, always provided and given, the facilities for disinfection free of charge. The Market is now very little used and only a few vehicles owned by local cattle carriers require cleansing and disinfection.

"Now that additional pest control work has been undertaken, and duties of the staff dealing with disinfection, etc., and pest control have been made interchangeable, better use could be made of the time of the Disinfecting Officer, who is now not fully employed when attending the Cattle Market.

"I recommend, therefore, that as from Monday, 7th March, 1949, the facilities provided for disinfection at the Redhill Cattle Market be withdrawn and the police officers acting as Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Acts be informed accordingly. I am satisfied that with the small number of vehicles implicated, they will be able to enforce the Order satisfactorily."

The recommendation was accepted, and duly implemented.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sampling

(D.D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst)

Details of the samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst during 1949 are given in the Table on page 43.

Of the 11 samples reported on unfavourably by the Public Analyst: -

(a) A sample of milk contained 2.88 per cent fat and 9.08 per cent solids-not-fat; samples taken at the request of the vendor from producers and a wholesaler showed that there was no deliberate abstraction of fat on the part of the retailer, who was advised to bulk supplies on arrival at the dairy. The investigation revealed a failure on the part of two producers to reach the 4% fat standard for "Channel Islands" milk; this was referred to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food.

(b) A sample of milk reported as being 7% deficient in milk fat led to five samples being taken in course of transit and followed-up by seven "appeal-to-cow" samples; the investigation showed that the milk in the original sample was genuine but of poor quality.

(c) A sample of beef sausage-meat contained only 38% meat instead of at least 50%. The facts were reported to the Food Control Committee, in accordance with a suggestion made by the Ministry of Food that such cases might be dealt with under "revocation procedure". The Ministry did, in fact, prosecute in this case, and secured a conviction, the vendor being fined £5.5.0. with £2.2.0. costs.

(d) A sample of short pastry was reported on as being rancid and unsuitable for cooking purposes. The matter was dealt with informally and by way of caution.

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adulterated
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	17	6	13	5	41	32	9
Ice-cream	1	4	3	-	8	8	-
Tea	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Coffee & Chicory	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Cocoa	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Sugar	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Glucose	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Saccharin	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Frying Oil	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Cooking fat	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Butter	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Margarine	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Salad-cream	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cheese	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Goat's Cheese	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Bicarbonate of Soda	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Baking-powder	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Custard-powder	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cake Flour	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Flour Mixture	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Cream of Tartar	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Sauces	2	1	-	-	3	3	-
Jelly	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Jam	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Candied-peel	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Sandwich-spread	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Luncheon-sausage	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Meat-pies	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pork-pies	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Sausage-meat	-	4	3	-	7	6	1
Rissoles	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
White Pepper	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Pears	-	-	4	-	4	4	-
Potato Crisps	-	-	3	-	3	3	-
Short Pastry	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Aspirin	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Whisky	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
Beer	-	-	-	4	4	4	-
TOTAL	43	18	27	20	108	97	11

In addition to the above, a sample of horseradish sauce was reported on as infringing the Labelling of Food Order, 1946; the explanation given by the vendor was accepted, the particular goods were withdrawn from sale and returned to the manufacturer for re-labelling.

Factories Act, 1937

The Table on page 45 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year, 56 inspections were made; in 17 cases defects were discovered, 11 of which were remedied in 1949.

Re-examination of two factories was made in accordance with Section 34, relating to means of escape in case of fire. In both cases certain alterations or changes had occurred which affected the conditions in regard to escape in case of fire. The occupiers of both factories agreed to make amendments suggested to them; authority was, therefore, given for the issue of amended certificates.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	177
House drainage	..	..	..	19
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	1
Rats or mice	..	..	..	315
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies				6
Insect Pests	..	..	..	14
Wasps' Nests	..	..	..	95
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	1
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	6
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	7
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	2
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	63

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1949	..	..	112
Issued during year	..	..	325
Complied with during year	..	..	280
Statutory action necessary	..	..	18
Outstanding on 31st December, 1949	..	..	139

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1949	..	..	2
Issued during year	..	..	18
Complied with during year	..	..	4
Outstanding on 31st December, 1949	..	..	16

The 18 Statutory Notices served during the year were classified as follows:-

Housing Act, 1936 - Section 9	..	..	4
Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 39	..	..	1
Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 92	..	..	13

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories

<u>Business</u>			<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Implement Works	..	..	1	-
Art Leather Worker	..	..	1	-
Automobile Engineers	..	..	20	3
Bakers .. .. .	..	..	16	3
Basket Work .. .. .	..	..	1	-
Book Binder .. .. .	..	..	-	1
Boot Makers and Repairers	..	..	3	1
Brick Makers, etc. ..	..	..	3	-
Builders and Contractors	..	..	3	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	..	..	2	6
Container Reclamation	..	..	1	-
Cycle Makers and Repairers	..	..	1	2
Dairymen .. .. .	..	..	2	-
Dressmakers and Milliners	..	..	1	3
Dry Cleaners .. .. .	..	..	3	-
Electrical Engineers ..	..	..	2	1
Engineers .. .. .	..	..	15	3
Food Manufacturers	..	..	1	-
Fuller's Earth Works	..	..	1	-
Gas Works .. .. .	..	..	2	-
Glass Cutting & Paint Packing	..	..	1	-
Hearthstone Works ..	..	..	1	-
Jam and Essence Makers	..	..	1	1
Knacker's Yard .. .. .	..	..	-	1
Lace Frilling Works	..	..	1	-
Laundries .. .. .	..	..	3	2
Log Sawing .. .. .	..	..	3	-
Mineral Water Manufacturers	..	..	1	-
Monumental Masons ..	..	..	-	1
Newspaper Fudging ..	..	..	3	-
Oil Refining .. .. .	..	..	1	-
Photographers and Picture Frame Makers	..	..	-	1
Pianoforte Repairers ..	..	..	-	1
Plumbers .. .. .	..	..	-	4
Printers .. .. .	..	..	6	-
Public Works Contractors	..	..	1	-
Scale Repairers .. ..	..	..	2	-
Seed Merchants .. .. .	..	..	3	-
Shoeing and General Smiths	..	..	-	2
Shop Fitters .. .. .	..	..	1	-
Steel Wool Manufacturers	..	..	1	-
Tailors .. .. .	..	..	1	2
Timber Merchants ..	..	..	2	-
Toy Manufacturer ..	..	..	1	-
Undertakers .. .. .	..	..	-	2
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair	..	..	1	-
Watchmakers .. .. .	..	..	-	2
Wax Refining Works ..	..	..	1	-
TOTALS			<u>114</u>	<u>46</u>

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year both voluntarily and in consequence of the service of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food and other shops, bakehouses, factories, hotels and public-houses, offices and other business premises, cowsheds, dairies, etc.

Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only) ..	77
Drains relaid	34
New lengths drain laid	84
Blocked drains cleared	18
New intercepting or inspection chambers constructed ..	56
New soil and vent pipes fixed	17
Soil and vent pipes renewed	6
Drain ventilation improved	18
New W.C.'s installed	36
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	30
W.C. flushing cisterns ditto	3
Hand-flushed W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus ..	-
Cesspools provided or enlarged	2
Cesspools abolished	4
Existing house drains connected to public sewer	4
Cesspools cleansed	3
New lavatory basins installed	11
Lavatory basins renewed	5
Sinks renewed or repaired	26
Wasto-pipes trapped or repaired	18
Sink gully dishings repaired	6
Pail closets abolished	3
Urinals reconstructed	3
Urinals cleansed	3
Sanitary dustbins provided	18
Leaky roofs repaired	117
Eaves gutters and stack pipes repaired	75
Backyards paved or repaired	24
Dampness remedied	82
Damp-proof courses provided	6
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses) ..	49
Ventilation and light of rooms improved	35
Ventilation and light of W.C. chambers improved	5
Water supply pipes repaired	7
Sub-floor ventilation improved	8
External paintwork of houses renewed	13
Internal paintwork of rooms renewed	44
Rooms cleansed	123
Ceilings cleansed	60
W.C. chambers cleansed	2
Cellars cleansed	4
Floors repaired or renewed	208
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	269
Window frames or sashcords repaired	166
Doors repaired or renewed	51
Staircases repaired	17
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	41
Coppers renewed or repaired	13
Washing accommodation provided	4
Food-stores provided	2
Manure receptacles renewed or repaired	1
Accumulations removed	4
Animals or poultry improperly kept	4
Other nuisances abated	22

One hundred and fifteen premises were visited on the application of builders for certificates to enable them to obtain timber for floor and other repairs. Ninety-eight certificates, involving 115 premises, were issued for transmission to the Ministry of Supply (Timber Control). The certificates stated that the repairs were necessary in the interests of public health, and that the amount of timber for which application was made was the minimum required for the repairs specified. As the defects to be remedied were, in most cases, caused by dry rot the work was, whenever possible, carried out under close supervision so that proper remedial measures could be put in hand for removing infected material and preventing the new timber from becoming infected.

Ten applications for licences, each for an amount over £100, were forwarded to the Regional Licensing Officer with a recommendation that they be granted, to a total value of £2,839.

Consequent upon certain relaxations in the control of building-repair work made by the Minister of Works in 1948, the number of licences issued in this Department involving the repair and maintenance of dwelling-houses fell from 228 in 1948 to 12 in 1949; these licences involved 15 premises and an estimated cost of £2,800.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below. These statistics have been revised in order to coincide with the information which is given quarterly to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Infestation Branch.

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
Number of complaints received from members of the Public during 1949	285	30
Number of complaints from members of the Public investigated during 1949 ..	274	33
Number of above premises found not to be infested	61	8
Number of premises found to be infested as a result of independent investigation	39	3
Number of Infested Premises treated and successfully cleared during 1949 ..	250	31
Number of Infested Premises which required re-treatment	-	-
Number of Infested Premises under or awaiting treatment at the end of the year ..	32	4
Number of Complaints awaiting investigation at the end of the year	26	2
Estimated Total Kill by Poison (Ministry Formula)	2,448	
Number of rats killed by other means (dogs, traps, etc.)	237	

In addition to the above work, the whole of the sewerage system of the Borough was again tested in June, 1949, for the presence of rats, and treatment carried out where necessary; of 194 manholes tested, only 14 were found to be in need of treatment by pre-baiting and poisoning. All the infestations were small, the estimated kill being only 29 rats. A further treatment was carried out in the following December, resulting in an estimated kill of 70 rats.

In April, 1949, an extensive maintenance treatment was carried out at the Council's Sewage and Refuse Disposal Works, pre-baiting and poisoning being undertaken at 200 points; the estimated kill was 625 rats.

The work mentioned above also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary Homes, 24 schools and 4 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) four commercial firms involving regular routine inspections of a food factory, a wholesale fruit and greengrocery depot, a poultry farm and six dairy premises.

Four meetings of the Surrey No.3 Workable Area Committee were held during the year, and were well attended by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, the Surrey County Council, Caterham and Warlingham U.D.C., Dorking U.D.C., Dorking & Horley R.D.C., Godstone R.D.C., Leatherhead U.D.C., Reigate Borough Council and the Surrey County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were instituted during 1949.

